



Department of Community
and Human Services

YOUTH TOPICS NEWSLETTER

IN THE NOVEMBER 4 EDITION:

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EVENTS

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month (November)

As many as 2.5 million youth per year experience homelessness. In support of [National Homeless Youth Awareness Month](#), the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) has made available resources that help communities, families, educators, mental health and child welfare professionals, and policy makers and advocates better understand and deal with homeless youth. Resources developed by the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth include a [toolkit](#) with talking points to help promote awareness of the plight of homeless youth.

Military Family Month (November)

Military families make tremendous sacrifices as they contend with separation from their families and make adjustments to new living situations and communities. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) has a number of [resources and webinars](#) that support the well-being of military families, including those with a service member currently serving in the US Armed Forces, or those who have retired or separated.

Community Health Fair (November 5)

The [event](#) will provide low-income uninsured resident adults and children in the City of Alexandria with various health screens and services: vision and hearing tests; dental screens for adults and children; glucose testing for diabetes; cholesterol checks; kidney health screening; dental education/screens for children; blood pressure checks; pregnancy tests; mental health screening; child obesity screens; developmental screens for 2.5 - 5 year olds; flu vaccines; nutritional counseling, and vascular screens. The fair will take place from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at George Washington Middle School (1005 Mt. Vernon Ave.).

Annual Legacy Scholarship & Program Fundraiser (November 5)

The [fundraiser](#) for Project Discovery (a program that prepares and motivates low income and first generation college-eligible students to access opportunities in higher education) will feature The Ernie Fields Band & Motown Sounds. The event from 5 – 7 p.m. will take place at the Departmental Progressive Club (411 Gibbon Street).

Managing the Behavior Spectrum in Children and Teens with Autism (November 9)

The goal of the workshop from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at John Adams Elementary School (5651 Rayburn Ave.) is to provide parents with an understanding of the manifestation of problem behaviors and to provide strategies and interventions to address them. A pizza dinner, childcare and interpretation services are provided with [registration](#).

Second Thursday Art Night: Highest Honor (November 10)

Join the Torpedo Factory Art Center in honoring America's [veterans](#) and those who have supported them over the generations. In the Main Hall, the USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore will feature a series of work by veterans. In the New Project Studio will be ceramic and bladesmithing work created by injured military personnel.

Toast to Hope (November 12)

Toast to Hope is SCAN's signature fall giving event and offers wine and beer tastings, food samplings, and a Silent/Live Auction. The [event](#) will take place from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the UUCA Gallery (4444 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington).

Redistricting Community Meeting (November 14, November 15)

How does redrawing residency boundaries for schools impact neighborhood schools and class size? Two meetings are scheduled to share information and gather input. The meeting of November 14 is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center at George Washington Middle School (1005 Mt. Vernon Ave.). The second meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on November 15 in the Cafeteria at John Adams Elementary School (5651 Rayburn Ave.)

Delivering Employer-Driven Apprenticeships (November 15)

The Urban Institute will host a forum on how best to attract employers to build apprenticeship programs, drawing on the experiences of US and UK intermediaries and employers. Presenters will discuss how direct marketing to firms, financial incentives, and linkages with training providers are expanding apprenticeship in the United States and the United Kingdom. The [forum](#) will take place at 2100 M. Street N.W. from 1 – 4:30 p.m.

Northern Virginia Family Services Reunification Workshop (November 15)

The workshop for anyone who has recently received or will be receiving an Unaccompanied Alien Child (UAC) from Central America will review the rights and responsibilities of sponsors and provide information as to resources in the community. The workshop will be conducted in Spanish and will take place from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Fifer Learning Center (607 Notabene Drive). Contact Oriole Avalos (571.748.2957) or Jackeline Martinez (571.748.2929) for additional information.

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (November 15)

The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will convene in Washington, D.C. from 3 – 5 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Justice. The proposed agenda will include presentations and a discussion on the sustainability of programs and activities that support cross-agency efforts affecting youth involved with the justice system. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch will chair the meeting. The deadline to [register](#) is November 8.

Training the Future Child Health Care Workforce to Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes for Children, Youth, and Families (November 29-30)

The focus of the [workshop](#) at The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2101 Constitution Avenue N.W.) is health care professionals who work in a variety of settings, including juvenile justice, schools, and child welfare systems. In-person [registration](#) is limited, but there will be a webcast.

Evaluating Your Truancy and Attendance Program (February 2)

Interactive [training](#) sponsored by the National Center for School Engagement is targeted to managers who want to evaluate their truancy reduction programs or need to report program effectiveness to funders. Presenters will discuss how to decide what data to collect, what data collection methods to use, and how to assure the highest quality data for drawing accurate conclusions about truancy reduction programs.

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CAREERS/VOLUNTEERISM**Charles Houston Recreation Center Teen Center Renovation**

The Charles Houston Recreation Center Advisory Council is striving to raise \$50,000 to renovate the existing Teen Center at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in the Parker-Gray neighborhood of Old Town. A [GoFundMe](#) page has been established that features neighborhood youth describing their vision for the Teen Center.

Year-Up: Arlington Earn While You Learn

Year Up is a one-year, intensive [training program](#) that provides low-income young adults ages 18-24 with a combination of hands-on skill development, college credits, and corporate internships. The first six months of the program focus on technical and professional skill building, and the second six months on applying those skills through corporate internships. Students earn up to 15 college credits; classes are conveniently held at 1901 South Bell Street near the Crystal City METRO station. A weekly stipend is provided and most graduates of the program earn an average of \$30,000 a year within four months of completing the program. Contact [Admissions](#) (703.312.9327) for additional information.

Office of Human Rights Intern

The City of Alexandria Office of Human Rights is seeking an undergraduate/graduate intern who is interested in researching and analyzing data relevant to women and girls in the City of Alexandria. Research will include surveys,

focus groups, and quantitative data collection. Qualified candidates must be working towards or have obtained an undergraduate degree in Sociology, Psychology, Women's Studies, Statistics or related field. The intern should be available to tentatively work through the college academic year, up to 20 hours a week in the unpaid position. Cover letters and resumes should be emailed to Miranda.branch@alexandriava.gov or mailed to: Miranda Branch, Office of Human Rights, 421 King St. Alexandria, VA 22314.

Girls Can Do Ambassadors

The purpose of the Girls Can Do event series is to host free [events](#) around the country and the world for young women and girls. The events are special days where girls come to engage, connect, and share experiences with women speakers who are pursuing their dreams. The goal is to identify girls who are perhaps without parents or who come from an underserved community. Ambassadors, who can be men or women, bring at least three girls to the event. An event will be held on November 12 at the [Warner Theater](#) (near METRO Center).

Scholastic and Writing Awards

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers invites young people in grades 7-12 to submit [entries](#) for the 2017 awards; 15 graduating seniors have the chance to win Gold Keys, which include a \$10,000 scholarship. Additional scholarships are available to Silver keys, Honorable Mentions, or American Visions & Voices nominations, and through sponsored awards and stipends to summer arts programs. The deadline for writing submissions is December 14; art submissions are due December 15.

National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

The annual [contest](#) for fifth graders is an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and other child advocates to promote child safety by discussing the issue of missing and/or exploited children with youth, parents, and guardians. The national winner, parents, teacher, and state clearinghouse manager will participate in the National Missing Children's Day commemoration in Washington, D.C. in May 2017. Submissions are due March 16, 2017.

Post-9/11 Veteran Nonprofit Fellowships

The Mission Continues Fellowship [program](#) empowers post-9/11 veterans to volunteer 20 hours per week for 26 weeks with nonprofit organizations in their community. Host organizations include Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Fellows are awarded a cost-of-living stipend to offset expenses while serving their fellowship. The stipend is variable by location and based on nationally developed stipend scales for service-related fellowships. Applications are due January 17, 2017.

American Association of University Women International Fellows

The annual [program](#) awards fellowships of up to \$30,000 to women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States who are not citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. Preference is given to women who show prior commitment to the advancement of women and girls through civic, community, or professional work. Applicants must have earned the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree by September 30 and must have applied to their proposed institutions of study by the time of the application. Up to five International Master's/First Professional Degree Fellowships are renewable for a second year. Applications are due December 1.

VFW Teacher of the Year Award

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States annual award contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism. A classroom elementary, junior high, and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics for at least half the school day in a classroom environment can be nominated. Winners receive a \$1,000 award for professional development expenses; a \$1,000 award for his/her school; an award plaque for the teacher and for his/her school, and an all-expenses paid trip to a VFW conference to receive their award. [Nominations](#) are due February 15, 2017

Teacher-Scholar Awards in Chemical Sciences

The annual program of the Camille & Henry Dreyfuss Foundation supports the research and teaching careers of talented young faculty in the chemical sciences at undergraduate institutions. The award, which provides an unrestricted grant of \$75,000, is based on accomplishment in scholarly research with undergraduates as well as a compelling commitment to teaching. The program is open to academic institutions in the states, districts, and territories of the United States that grant a bachelor's or master's degree in the chemical sciences, including biochemistry, materials chemistry, and chemical engineering. Nominees must hold a full-time tenure-track academic appointment; be beyond the fourth and not after the twelfth year of their independent academic careers; and be engaged in research and teaching primarily with undergraduates. [Nominations](#) are due February 10.

William H. Johnson Prize

The [prize](#) is awarded annually to an early-career African-American artist working in the area of painting, photography, sculpture, printmaking, installation, or a new genre. “Early career” is a flexible term that should be interpreted liberally to include artists who have finished their academic work within twelve years from the year that the prize is awarded. Age is not determinative, and artists who have not earned a BFA or MFA are eligible as long as they have not been working as an artist for more than twelve years. The recipient will receive \$25,000. Applications must be received by November 10.

Fellowship in Arts Management Strategy

The annual fellowship program of the Devos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland provides intensive training in arts and cultural management, artistic planning, marketing, fundraising, evaluation, and finance to mid-career arts managers over a three-year period. The program is offered free of charge to arts managers from across the United States and around the world through a competitive application process. Fellows will attend a four-week residency in Washington, D.C. each summer for three consecutive years and receive ongoing personalized mentoring. Applicants must have a minimum of five years’ working experience in an administrative capacity in an arts or cultural organization; currently serve as an executive or department head with decision-making authority; and have an excellent command of business English, orally and written. In addition, applicants must be able to commit to the full term of the fellowship. [Applications](#) are due December 1.

Roman J. Witt Residency Program

The annual program of the Stamps School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan supports the production of new artistic work by a visiting artist/designer through a one-year residency that allows the artist to work at the school and collaborate with students and faculty. Witt Residents receive an honorarium of \$20,000 for up to twelve weeks in residence; housing, studio space, and up to \$5,000 in funding support for project materials. The [residency](#) is open to both established and emerging artists/designers. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2017.

Ucross Foundation Artist Residencies

The Ucross Foundation provides living accommodations, individual work space, and uninterrupted time to approximately 85 individuals each year. There is no cost for [residencies](#) in Sheridan, Wyoming, which vary in length from two weeks to six weeks. At any one time, there are up to nine individuals in residence, a mix of visual artists, writers and composers. Applications are due March 1, 2017.

Residency Fellowships in Giverny, France

The Terra Foundation for American Art is accepting nominations for its summer residency program for doctoral scholars of American Art and emerging artists worldwide in the historic village of Giverny, France. In addition to a \$5,000 stipend and a travel contribution of up to \$500, fellows receive on-site lodging, use of working facilities, and lunches for the duration of the residency. Nominees must be either a visual artist with a master’s degree or its equivalent at the time of application (preference is given to those who have completed their degree within the past five years) or a doctoral candidate researching American art and visual culture or its role in a context of international artistic exchange prior to 1980. [Applications](#) are due January 15, 2017.

David Wechsler Early Career Grant for Innovative Work in Cognition

The annual program of the American Psychological Foundation awards a single [grant](#) of up to \$25,000 to an early-career psychologist pursuing innovative work in neuropsychology, intelligence, and/or the assessment aspects of cognition. Those who work on positive applied neuropsychology are encouraged to apply. Applications are due June 15, 2017.

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RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Virginia Continues to Soar on National Science Exam

Virginia’s fourth graders posted the [second-highest](#) average scores in the country, bested only by New Hampshire by an insignificant margin, maintaining a high ranking as the commonwealth adopts a new science curriculum. The tests administered by the National Assessment of Educational Progress are the only measure that offers a snapshot of how students in all states perform in math, reading and other academic subjects.

The Color of Wealth in the Nation's Capital

A new [study](#) by The Urban Institute found white households in the Washington region have a net worth 81 times that of black households, concluding the recession and housing crisis of 2007-2009 exacerbated long-persistent disparities. In 2013 and 2014, white households in the D.C. area had a net worth of \$284,000 while black households had a net worth of \$3,500, and Hispanics \$13,000.

Superintendent Announces Plan to Solve Seating Capacity Issues Across All Grade Levels by 2027

Superintendent Alvin Crawley announced a [Capital Improvement Program](#) (CIP) for the next ten years that includes a new elementary school, new middle school and new high school building to fully address seating capacity needs by 2027.

Two New Redistricting Options Available Following Feedback from the Community Meetings

Redistricting consultant Matthew Cropper translated and collated the feedback from the community meetings held during the last week in October, and has devised [two more options](#) in addition to those available for comment at the meetings.

Meet Your School's Public Relations Liaison

In an effort to help spread the good news about what is happening in schools, a public relations liaison has been designated at most of our schools. The [liaisons](#) are equipped with iPads, which they use to take photos and share updates on social media.

ACPS Staff and Students Selected to Join White House Showcase

Two students from Patrick Henry Elementary School joined their principal and the ACPS Director of Elementary Instruction at the [White House](#) to discuss ways to close the opportunity gap between subgroups in schools.

Urban Alliance Featured at the White House

Urban Alliance participated in the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Alliance "[What Works Showcase](#)" hosted by the White House. UA was invited to be featured alongside 32 of the nation's premiere organizations and interventions with rigorous evidence of impact across MBK's cradle-to-career goals. The event showcased organizations that have data-driven programs that impact boys and young men of color to measurably improve lives.

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EDUCATION

Students

Study: 9th and 10th Grades Offer Key Chance to Re-Engage Disengaged Students

The Parthenon Group and Ernst & Young analyzed data provided by the Connecticut Department of Education as well as interviewed teachers, principals, superintendents, students, and community workers to compose a [portrait](#) of the state's young people who are at high risk of dropping out or who had already dropped out. They found 39,000 disengaged or disconnected young people, a number equivalent to 22% of its high school enrollment. Nine thousand are from towns with above-average income levels, and 6,000 are white or Asian from middle- and high-income households. The report notes 41% are disengaged in 8th grade, but concluded there is much potential to bring many of those students back from the brink if they get the right supports in 9th grade.

Most Syrian Refugees Arriving in US are Kids; Schools Adapt

The U.S. State Department says nearly 60% of the more than 11,000 Syrian arrivals over the past year were [children](#). That is a larger percentage than some refugee groups, in part because resettlement agencies say Syrians tend to have larger families and many have managed to stay together despite displacement. Many of those children are enrolling in public schools around the country, including Chicago; Austin, Texas; New Haven, Connecticut; and El Cajon, California (which received 76 new Syrian students the first week of school).

Grad Rate for Special Education Students Beats That of Overall Population

Graduation rates among students with disabilities [rose](#) from 59% in the 2010-11 school year to 64.6% in the 2014-15 school year—a 5.6 percentage point increase that is higher than the 4.2 percentage point increase seen among the overall student population in the same time period.

U.S. Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Case on Service Dog and Special Education

At the center of [Fry v. Napoleon Community Schools](#) is Ehlena Fry, a 12-year old with cerebral palsy, and her service dog. The district refused to allow the dog to accompany the student when she was in kindergarten.

Schools

Positive School Climates May Help Narrow Achievement Gaps

A research analysis published in *Review of Educational Research* found correlations between [improved school climates and narrower achievement gaps](#) between students in different socio-economic groups. Authors of the analysis analyzed 78 school climate research studies published between 2000 and 2015 to detect trends in findings. They also suggested ways that school climate research could be strengthened. All but one study found a relationship between school climate and student achievement. Among the authors' findings: a positive school climate can weaken the effects of low family income on achievement.

Cyber Charters: Widespread Reports of Trouble

As part of an [eight-month investigation](#) into the poor academic performance and financial mismanagement of full-time online charter schools, *Education Week* reviewed hundreds of news stories and dozens of state audits and reports dating back to the early 2000s. Together, these accounts raise a critical question: What would persuade state lawmakers to bring greater accountability to the nation's troubled cyber charter sector?

NAACP Officially Calls for a Ban on New Charter Schools

During its national meeting in Cincinnati, the national board of the NAACP board ratified a [proposal](#) put forward by its members to halt the spread of charter schools. Members cited concerns over discipline and segregation within charter schools, among many other issues, and the national board agreed.

Teacher Race and School Discipline

A [study](#) published in *Education Next* lends support to the idea that the implicit biases of a mostly white teacher workforce contribute to disproportionately higher discipline rates for black students. Researchers concluded students are less likely to be suspended, expelled, or placed in detention by teachers who are of the same race as they.

Through Our Eyes: Perspectives and Reflections From Black Teachers

Many black teachers feel "called" to be in the classroom and have a unique set of qualities, but those perceived strengths are often hindering their professional growth, a new report says. The [report](#) by The Education Trust shares the stories of black teachers who felt like they have been pigeonholed by their colleagues, administrators, and parents into specific roles, hurting their opportunities to advance in their careers.

LAUSD Teachers Earn Too Much to Live in the Affordable Housing Apartments Built for Them

In the mid-2000s, in the midst of a housing boom, the Los Angeles Unified School District realized that skyrocketing rents were fueling teacher turnover. Two below-market apartment complexes were built on unused district land and a third is under construction. Today, both are fully occupied but not one L.A. Unified teacher lives in them. The problem for teachers, as district officials learned after they had signed the lease agreements and developers had secured funding, was that even the newest hires earned too much to [qualify](#) for the units. The apartments designed primarily for middle-class teachers have been an unintentional boon for the cafeteria workers, bus drivers and special education assistants who make up the lowest-paid group in the school system.

School Choice Program's Funding Source Unlawful, Nevada High Court Rules

Nevada's education savings account program allows parents of public school students to pull their child out of a public school and take the state funding allocated to the child with them. They can then spend that money on private school tuition (including religious schools), home schooling materials, or a variety of other approved, education-related expenses. The money is deposited in education savings accounts. The Nevada Supreme Court [ruled](#) the way the state's groundbreaking school choice program is funded is unconstitutional. The program does not have its own dedicated funding source, and the court ruled it was illegal to take money allocated for public schools.

U.S. Ed. Dept. Challenge Offers Big Prize Money for Educational Simulations

The U.S. Department of Education is launching a competition with a \$680,000 pool of prize money, for designers of the next generation of educational simulations that strengthen career and technical skills.

Colleges

High School Poverty, Minority Enrollment, Undermine College Progress, Study Finds

A [report](#) from the National Student Clearinghouse found students who attend high-poverty schools or schools with high minority enrollments are far less likely to enroll in college, and less likely to complete degrees than their more advantaged peers.

A More Honest Way of Reporting College Readiness?

A new [brief](#) by Achieve, an organization that pushes for strong academic standards and transparent accountability, argues that states should report on college readiness the same way they are required to report on their graduation rates: by tracking each incoming class of 9th graders and following it through graduation.

Disadvantaged Students Outnumbered at Top Public Boarding Schools

An associate professor of education and social policy at Northwestern University found the uncertainty of incoming low-income college students about their own social status and identity significantly [affected](#) their achievement and willingness to try hard, both in the run-up to college and during their first year of college. With rigorous courses, enrichment, and often round-the-clock counseling and career services, the nation's academically oriented public boarding schools can offer a promising model for nurturing gifted students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Three Myths about Financial Aid that Keep Students from Applying

Only 45% of high school seniors complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), missing out on billions of dollars in financial aid every year. The National College Access Network (NCAN) is trying to change that with the [Form Your Future](#) campaign, which encourages high school seniors across the country to apply for financial aid.

Using Texts to ‘Nudge’ Students on Financial Aid

The Common Application, used by nearly a million students each year to apply to college, is using young people's favorite mode of communication—the text message—to help them meet crucial deadlines for financial aid. The portal known to most as "the common app" has introduced a new feature that will send [text messages](#) to students to "nudge" them into completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. The common app piloted the text messages last year.

Student Aid Can’t Keep Up With Rising College Prices

Published prices for tuition and fees — the "sticker price" colleges charge, not counting any loans, grants or tax credits that reduce the amount students pay — rose less in the last year than they did the year before, according to the College Board's latest ["Trends in College Pricing"](#) and ["Trends in Student Aid"](#) reports. The student-aid report shows that the help available to students from federal student loans and grants has been [decreasing](#) for the last five years, while grant aid from states has risen only slightly. Grants from private institutions and employers have risen more, but despite that, the total amount of student aid (other than nonfederal loans) has declined from \$259 billion in 2010-11 to \$241 billion in 2015-16.

No Easy Path Forward for ITT Tech Students

The federal government cut off student aid to ITT Tech after the school's accreditor threatened expulsion in the face of mounting investigations, lawsuits and enforcement actions for lying about job placement rates and steering students into predatory loans. One group of 82 students who were in the nursing program at ITT Tech's Salem, Va. campus are a prime example of the [predicaments](#) facing the 35,000 people the shutdown displaced. Though all of the colleges offering registered nursing in the region say they want to help, none will accept credits from ITT Tech's nursing courses, leaving student with little hope of completing their degrees.

Jobs Will Require Ongoing Training, Study Finds

A [report](#) by the Pew Research Center invites the K-12 education system to rethink its role in providing the ongoing training jobs of the future will require. The working adults who were surveyed said they bear a lot of individual responsibility for making sure they are getting the training and education they need to stay on top of the job market's demands. But they assigned a good deal of responsibility on the K-12 education system to provide it.

Trends in College Pricing

A [report](#) by The College Board provides information on changes over time in undergraduate tuition and fees, room and board, and other estimated expenses related to attending colleges and universities. It reveals the wide variation

in prices charged by institutions of different types and in different parts of the country. Of particular importance is the focus on the net prices students actually pay after taking grant aid into consideration.

STEM

Teachers Underestimate Girls' Math Abilities, Report Suggests

According to a [study](#) published in *AERA Open* (the journal of the American Educational Research Association), teachers perceive boys' math ability as higher than girls' regardless of the students' learning styles and levels of achievement, starting as early as kindergarten. This perception at such an early age could affect girls' confidence and aptitude for math and prevent them from pursuing future STEM opportunities.

Education Groups Call for FCC Action on Huge Tech Resource

Possibly billions of dollars' worth of a public educational telecommunications resource has [languished](#) unused and unlicensed within the federal government for decades, some estimates show. If it were managed more effectively, experts say, the resource could be used to essentially eliminate the "homework gap," the divide that exists between students who have access to high-quality learning technologies in school and at home and those who do not. Eleven education groups—including the National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Education Association, the Consortium for School Networking, and the International Society for Technology in Education—[jointly filed documents eight years ago](#) petitioning the Federal Communications Commission to give educators access to the unlicensed remnants of the Educational Broadband Service, or EBS.

'Red Flags' to Look for When Evaluating Personalized Learning Products

Is personalized learning an educational imperative, a marketing strategy for an ed-tech product, or both? Too often, teachers and administrators say, they find that personalized learning is used by companies as mere buzzwords to promote a run-of-the-mill digital tool. But educators are finding ways to [sort](#) the real personalized potential from the empty promises of some ed-tech products.

Groups Issue Blueprint for Teaching Computer Science in All Grades

The Association for Computing Machinery, Code.org, the Computer Science Teachers Association, the Cyber Innovation Center and the National Math and Science Initiative developed the [K-12 Computer Science Framework](#), which is a core set of concepts and practices for teaching rather than curriculum standards.

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YOUTH WELL-BEING

Teachers, Parents Fear World is Unkind Place for Children, Survey Finds

A majority of parents and teachers who took a recent survey agreed that [kindness](#) is more important for children's future than academic success, and nearly three-quarters of parents and almost four-fifths of teachers also said they often worry that "the world is an unkind place for children." Results of the survey, administered by the Sesame Workshop, come as schools increasingly focus on students' social and emotional skills as well as their academic success. It also comes as some advocacy groups worry that harsh presidential campaign rhetoric has taken a negative toll on school climates.

What's the Deal with the After-School Satan Club Movement?

The Satanic Temple, a religious group based in Salem, Mass., has been working to establish Satan Clubs in various elementary schools across the country. The group seeks to establish these clubs in schools that have Good News Clubs (which are associated with evangelical Christians). The group has applied to set up shop in nine schools, but only one of their applications has been approved – a Satan Club at Sacramento Elementary School in Portland. A 2001 U.S. Supreme Court [ruling](#) paved the way for the inclusion of such clubs in public schools, ruling that when a school allows any group, secular or religious, to use school property after school it must allow all groups to have the same access. *EdWeek* talked to [Lucien Greaves](#), the co-founder of The Satanic Temple, to find out what the Satan Club movement is all about.

Youth Talk 2016 Presidential Election (Video)

A dozen teens from different schools, backgrounds and neighborhoods gathered at VOX Teen Communications in Atlanta to [share](#) their thoughts, concerns and hopes relating to the election. Some of them will vote for the first time this year; others are still too young, but they all care deeply about the election.

Judge Dismisses Newtown Families' Lawsuit Against Gun Maker

A State Superior Court judge [dismissed](#) a wrongful-death lawsuit by Newtown families against the maker of the rifle used in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting massacre, citing an embattled federal law that shields gun manufacturers from most lawsuits over criminal use of their products.

'Newtown' Documentary Gets National Theater Simulcast on November 2

A searing [documentary](#) about the 2012 shootings of 20 young children and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut was simulcast in movie theaters nationwide. The film simulcast was followed by a town hall-style panel discussion moderated by CNN anchor Chris Cuomo and featuring Mark Barden, the father of Sandy Hook Elementary School victim Daniel Barden; Mary Ann Jacob, a surviving educator from the school; Hugo Rojas, the father of a surviving 1st grader; and Dr. Bill Begg, the vice chair of the emergency room at Danbury Hospital. The conversation revolved around the issues of gun violence prevention, collective trauma, and community response.

Foster Kids Bring Their Priorities to Capitol Hill

Nearly 100 current and former foster youth representing more than 20 foster advocacy organizations came to Washington, D.C. to make the case for the [foster care reforms](#) they think are most important. Findings of a survey of more than 500 current and former foster youth in more than 25 states documented the importance of policies that maintain sibling connections, prevent homelessness, ensure college access and success and help former foster youth live independently.

Health

Brain Changes Seen in Youth Football Players Without Concussion

A [study](#) published online in the journal *Radiology* found measurable brain changes in children after a single season of playing youth football, even without a concussion diagnosis.

Media and Young Minds

In a marked shift from recommendations first adopted in 1999, the American Academy of Pediatrics has lifted its recommendation discouraging all electronic media use in children under the age of 2. The new [recommendations](#) for children's media use acknowledge that some media exposure can have educational value for children as young as 18 months, but it should be high-quality programming—the AAP specifically referenced "Sesame Street" and children's programming provided by PBS. But parents should watch those programs with their children, not use the television as a parking spot for infants and toddlers.

Children's Sleeplessness May Be Linked to Bedtime Use of Electronic Gadgets

An analysis of data from 26,000 children provides the strongest evidence yet of a link between bedtime use of electronic devices and poor sleep, inadequate sleep and excessive daytime sleepiness. The [analysis](#) published in *JAMA Pediatrics* involved analyzing past studies of children between ages 6 and 19 in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Researchers concluded children who had mobile media devices at bedtime were more than twice as likely as others to sleep less than nine hours a night. Those who kept phones or other gadgets in their rooms were 50% more likely to get poor sleep and 200% more likely to be excessively sleepy during the day.

Updated Guidelines on Infant Sleep Highlight Danger of Parents' Tiredness

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued a [policy statement](#) on how to prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and other sleep-related deaths. The guidelines reaffirm many of the recommendations from the previous policy published in 2011. What is new is the acknowledgement that tired parents sometimes fall asleep while feeding their babies, and they should plan for that.

Autistic Children Over-Diagnosed With ADHD, Study Suggests

A new [study](#) conducted by the Center for Autism Research at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia found that children with autism may be over-diagnosed with ADHD. Teachers and parents who use the screening tool, which assesses children for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), may mistake autism-related social impairments for attention problems, according to the study. This, in turn, could affect the services and treatments that autistic children receive.

Online Gaming Platform Aims to Teach Social and Emotional Skills

Happify is an online [gaming platform](#) that supports social-emotional learning concepts as part of a larger character-development program known as Thriving Learning Communities. It was designed by the Cincinnati-based

Mayerson Academy, a nonprofit provider of professional-development services in the education sector. The Ohio education department awarded a \$106,000 grant to the 1,300-student Deer Park Community City Schools to implement Mayerson's program for students and teachers in grades 5-8. Nine public and private schools in Chicago, Dallas, Pueblo, Colo., St. Louis, and other communities are also implementing the program this school year with separate, grant-based funding from Mayerson and other supporters.

Racial Injustice and Trauma: African-Americans in the U.S.

Current-day racial injustice in law enforcement, prisons, and other institutions are part of the history of oppression and racism that can affect the trauma experience, treatment, and recovery of African Americans. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) has developed a [position statement](#) as a call to action to collectively integrate specific activities within the work of the NCTSN: increase knowledge about the impact of race-based traumatic stress that affects many African American children, their families, and the communities in which they live; develop and disseminate resources that child trauma professionals can use to identify, assess, and address historical trauma and racism in the context of high quality, trauma-informed, culturally responsive care; and become a national leader in raising awareness about historical trauma related to African Americans, the effects of current-day racial injustice, and the implication of such history and experiences on trauma-informed health and mental health care.

Violence Reduction Clearinghouse

The Department of Justice Violence Reduction Network has introduced an [online resource](#) that allows users to build and download a custom toolkit of evidence-based strategies, best practices, training, technical assistance, and publications to help reduce violence. Users can browse by topic area, such as justice-involved youth. Topics also include human trafficking, gang violence, community policing, domestic violence, and social media.

Condom Use

More [cases of sexually transmitted diseases](#) were reported last year in the U.S. than ever before, according to the CDC. Meanwhile, teen condom use, which had risen between 1991 and 2003, has seen a slow and steady [decline](#). Fewer than 6 in 10 sexually active high school students now report having used condoms during their most recent intercourse.

Drug-Addiction Epidemic Creates Crisis in Foster Care

The nation's drug-addiction epidemic is driving a dramatic increase in the number of children entering foster care, forcing many states to take [urgent steps](#) to care for neglected children. Several states, such as New Hampshire and Vermont, have either changed laws to make it possible to pull children out of homes where parents are addicted, or have made room in the budget to hire more social workers to deal with the emerging crisis. Other states, such as Alaska, Kansas and Ohio, have issued emergency pleas for more people to become foster parents and take neglected children, many of them infants, into their homes.

Macklemore – Drug Dealer

In a raw [music video](#) for his new song “Drug Dealer,” hip-hop artist Macklemore paints a stark and moving picture of his personal struggle with prescription drug abuse, which mirrors the nationwide epidemic that is currently gripping our country.

Blueprint for a Healthier America 2016: Policy Priorities for the Next Administration and Congress

Experts say the key to better health lies not just in insurance access or visits to the doctor, but in improving the social services families can access and the neighborhoods they live in. Trust for America's Health, a nonprofit public-health organization based in Washington, D.C., released a [report](#) that includes numerous recommendations related to youth such as investments in nutrition and early childhood programs, preventing physical abuse, substance use and toxic stress, and reducing obesity.

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JUVENILE JUSTICE

Man Still Fighting 40-year Sentence for Nonlethal Crime He Committed as 14-year-old (Video)

What was about to happen on Feb. 4, 1999, would drastically accelerate the [trajectory](#) of the life of Christopher Thomas, which had been spiraling downhill since birth, and end up with him getting sentenced to 40 years in prison as an unarmed tagalong in a nonlethal shooting. Seventeen years later, he is in prison still trying to understand how he got such a harsh sentence in a life that was never really his own. The reporting and editing of his story was an outgrowth of an applied research project that sought to demonstrate whether and how university students could use

virtual world tools and avatars to produce true news stories. A group of eleven Kennesaw State University students shared the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange newsroom.

Delinquency Cases Involving Hispanic Youth, 2013

An Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [bulletin](#) features data from more than 1,200 counties and represents 75% of the U.S. Hispanic youth population at risk of juvenile court involvement. Findings show that Hispanic youth were 20% more likely than white youth to be referred to juvenile court, and once adjudicated, 30% more likely to be ordered to out-of-home placement.

How Does Gang Involvement Impact Health Outcomes of Homeless Youth?

Researchers recruited 505 homeless youth in Los Angeles to complete an online self-report [survey](#) addressing their involvement in gangs, exposure to trauma, mental health, sexual behavior, and substance use. Among the findings were youth without any gang involvement were less likely to have experienced depression or post-traumatic stress disorder than youth who were gang members or affiliated with gangs. Gang members were also 2.5 times more likely to have reported attempting suicide than youth not involved in gangs, and significantly more likely to have suffered from trauma as a child, including instances of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or witnessing family violence. Similarly, gang affiliates were twice as likely to have reported childhood sexual abuse.

‘What We Have Now is a Civil War’

Security forces in El Salvador are carrying out a growing number of [killings](#) in the gang war.

The Future of Youth Justice: A Community-Based Alternative to the Youth Prison Model

A newly released [report](#) by the Harvard Kennedy School highlights problems with incarceration for juveniles, including poor facility conditions, abuse scandals, stubborn recidivism rates, and high costs. The authors concluded youth would be better served in a system that drastically limits the number of juveniles who are incarcerated, expands community and family-based programming, and reinvests money in additional prevention and alternative strategies.

Journal of Juvenile Justice

The [fall issue](#) features articles on the variables that are associated with the juvenile justice system and recidivism for youth, reasons for the 20% turnover rate among correctional officers in juvenile facilities, and research into trauma and adversity found among justice-involved youth.

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WEBINARS

Is a Children’s Cabinet Right for Your Mayor and County Executive? (November 10, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.)

Across the nation, county and municipal leaders are aligning multiple agencies to develop better policies, procedures and programmatic efforts to support the success of children, youth and their families. This work often focuses on populations in need of targeted support. The coordinating bodies are sometimes called Children's Cabinets. A panel of experts will [discuss](#) the new and emerging space to improve the lives of children and youth.

Accountability for Alternative Education: Lessons Learned from States and Districts (November 15, 3 – 4:30 p.m.)

The webinar hosted by the American Youth Policy Forum will [explore](#) the challenges and opportunities of accountability for alternative education as well as promising practices from states and districts that have developed accountability measure and systems that are inclusive of all students in all types of educational settings.

Supporting the Wellness of Military Children and their Families (November 22, 1:30 – 3 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) features an overview of the research on military and veteran children, and tips for supporting military families. Presenters will discuss strategies to build partnerships and develop targeted messaging to better engage and support military and veteran families. Several of Sesame Workshop’s new and most effective tools and resources will be highlighted, including their latest mobile app and resources for military and veteran children.

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